

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A CDMA receiver, comprising:

a path search section for receiving signals from a plurality of base stations, and specifying finger allocation according to delay profiles of respective branch signals received from the plural base stations;

a plurality of fingers which are allocated to the branch signals based on the finger allocation specified by the path search section; and

a rake receiving section for maximal-ratio-combining the power of a plurality of signals obtained from the fingers, which have been distributed due to their respective delays;

wherein the path search section includes a path management section to search for paths in response to the branch signals, and stores detected path information in a detected path table storing area in a memory; and

wherein the number of paths which the path management section searches for is changed according to the number of received branch signals, the number of search paths being dynamically controlled to set an acceptable number of paths to a substantially steady value.

2. (Original) The CDMA receiver claimed in claim 1, wherein, in the detected path table storing area, memory area and the address of memory area for storing detected path information with respect to each branch signal are changed according to the number of branch signals.

3. (Original) The CDMA receiver claimed in claim 1, wherein the number of paths which the path management section searches for with respect to each branch signal is found out by

adding the number of candidate paths for path switching to a value obtained by dividing the number of the fingers by the number of the received branch signals.

4. (Original) The CDMA receiver claimed in claim 2, wherein the number of paths which the path management section searches for with respect to each branch signal is found out by adding the number of candidate paths for path switching to a value obtained by dividing the number of the fingers by the number of the received branch signals.

5. (Currently Amended) A path management method with the use of a CDMA receiver, comprising:

a path search section for receiving signals from a plurality of base stations, and specifying finger allocation according to delay profiles of respective branch signals received from the plural base stations;

a plurality of fingers which are allocated to the branch signals based on the finger allocation specified by the path search section; and

a rake receiving section for maximal-ratio-combining the power of a plurality of signals obtained from the fingers, which have been distributed due to their respective delays;

wherein the operation of the path search section involves:

a path management step for searching for paths in response to the branch signals;

a path information storing step for storing detected path information in a detected path table storing area; and

a path number finding step for finding the number of paths to be searched at the path management step according to the number of received branch signals, the number of search paths being dynamically controlled to set an acceptable number of paths to a substantially steady value.

6. (Original) The path management method claimed in claim 5, wherein, at the path information storing step, in the detected path table storing area, memory area and the address of memory area for storing detected path information with respect to each branch signal are changed according to the number of branch signals.

7. (Original) The path management method claimed in claim 5 wherein, at the path number finding step, the number of paths to be searched with respect to each branch signal is determined on the basis of the maximum value of the products of the respective numbers of received branches and the respective numbers of paths.

8. (Original) The path management method claimed in claim 6 wherein, at the path number finding step, the number of paths to be searched with respect to each branch signal is determined on the basis of the maximum value of the products of the respective numbers of received branches and the respective numbers of paths.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a path management program for execution on a processor-controlled CDMA receiver, comprising:

a path search section for receiving signals from a plurality of base stations, and specifying finger allocation according to delay profiles of respective branch signals received from the plural base stations;

a plurality of fingers which are allocated to the branch signals based on the finger allocation specified by the path search section; and

a rake receiving section for maximal-ratio-combining the power of a plurality of signals obtained from the fingers, which have been distributed due to their respective delays;

wherein the CDMA receiver is controlled by the stored program such that the path search section implements:

a path management process for searching for paths in response to the branch signals;

a path information storing process for storing detected path information in a detected path table storing area; and

a path number finding process for finding the number of paths to be searched by the path management process according to the number of received branch signals, the number of search paths being dynamically controlled to set an acceptable number of paths to a substantially steady value.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The path management program~~ computer readable medium claimed in claim 9, wherein, in the path information storing process, in the detected path table storing area, memory area and the address of memory area for storing detected path information with respect to each branch signal are changed according to the number of branch signals.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The path management program~~ computer readable medium claimed in claim 9, wherein, in the path number finding process, the number of paths to be searched with respect to each branch signal is determined on the basis of the maximum value of the products of the respective numbers of received branches and the respective numbers of paths.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~path-management program~~ computer readable medium claimed in claim 10, wherein, in the path number finding process, the number of paths to be searched with respect to each branch signal is determined on the basis of the maximum value of the products of the respective numbers of received branches and the respective numbers of paths.